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Architects and Engineers Hear Wallace Harrison

The old story, heard in college days, about architects and engineers not getting along, was disproved at the joint meeting of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. and The Engineering Society of Detroit, at the Rackham Building, in Detroit, on the evening of November 19. After the meeting George Thompson, City Engineer and President of E.S.D., stated that his "architectural education had been advanced immeasurably, though it is still in the thumb-nail-sketch stage."

The E.S.D. never does anything by halves, consequently everything was scheduled to the minute and went off accordingly. The program began at 5:45 p.m., with movies of Yosemite National Park. They were very wonderful and of special interest to architects who attended the A.I.A. Convention there a few years ago.

The Detroit Chapter Board helds its usual meeting preceeding the dinner but, in deference to the major issue, that will be passed lightly here. Prof. Jean Hebrard, at his request, was relieved of the chairmanship of the Chapter's Committee on Allied Arts. Roger Bailey, new Director, was named to succeed him. Clair W. Ditchy also requested that he be relieved as Chairman of the Committee on Chapter History. This was granted.

Dinner was served promptly at 6:30 p.m., following which E.S.D. President George Thompson introduced a group of 18 Canadian Architects, members of the Windsor Chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects. He then introduced those at the speakers' table, consisting of the members of the boards of the two organizations.

A new feature (to us) was a "coffee speaker," in this case Mr. Thomas L. Riley, Production Manager of Station WWJ-TV, who spoke in a humorous vein on "Television Backstage." This was most interesting, particularly the relation of an early experimental broadcast of a bathing beauty contest in which the contestants wore pink bathing suits. It was found that, in this process, red does not register. We may expect color broadcasting, says Mr. Riley, in about a year, with little adjusting required on present sets.

In the auditorium, Thompson introduced Dean Wells I. Bennett, President of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., who gave a few words of introduction to the speaker, Wallace K. Harrison, A.I.A., of New York, Chief Architect and Director of Planning for the United Nations Permanent Headquarters.

We know Harrison is a college man, for he again referred to the controversy between architects and engineers by joking that engineers believe that buildings built without the services of engineers would fall down, concluding that buildings by engineers without architects' services should be torn down.

Mr. Harrison began by saying that his group undertook their task, fully realizing that they would be damned if they produced a modern design and also if they did not. He related how many architects from many countries helped. This was considered phenomenal, since it is news when one can get two architects to agree.

In relating facts about the development of this $65,000,000 project on an $8,500,000 site, consisting of 17½ acres, he stated that many of the architects believed that the most important element in such planning is the little man who is to occupy it. Some day is will evolve as a capitol of the world and a symbol of peace far more significant than is now apparent. It is expected that the Secretariat Building will be completed in 1949, the General Assembly in 1950.

In speaking of conditions in general, Mr. Harrison stated that today we face a deadline, and the more intelligent one is the more afraid he is of the future. The architect expressed great confidence in the United Nations, under the guidance of an able man, Mr. Trygve Lie.

Using both slides and motion pictures, the speaker gave his audience an insight into the thinking that went into the design of this wonderful project.

The question - and - answer period brought out many interesting questions. One questioner asked why the commission felt that the slab-like skyscrapers and the low intervening buildings were attractive. It was answered by asking another question—"Just what kind of architecture are we sure is attractive?"

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

Monday evening, Dec. 8 Nelson Company will be hosts to Michigan Architects at a complimentary dinner and cocktail party at the Wardell-Sheraton in Detroit.

One of the most keenly-felt handicaps in the building industry at present is the shortage of materials. Plumbing and heating products have contributed their share to delays and inconveniences and are probably a little more conspicuous on account of their vital importance in building.

Mr. Norman J. Ermatinger of Nelson Company informs us that a program and exhibition have been prepared concerning some new and very interesting products in process of development which should be available in 1948. This will mean authoritative and valuable information for architects.

We can look forward to a pleasant and constructive evening. If you have not already returned the card sent with the invitation, please do so at once, so that reservations can be made with the hotel for the proper number of guests.

Cocktail hour, 6:30 p.m.

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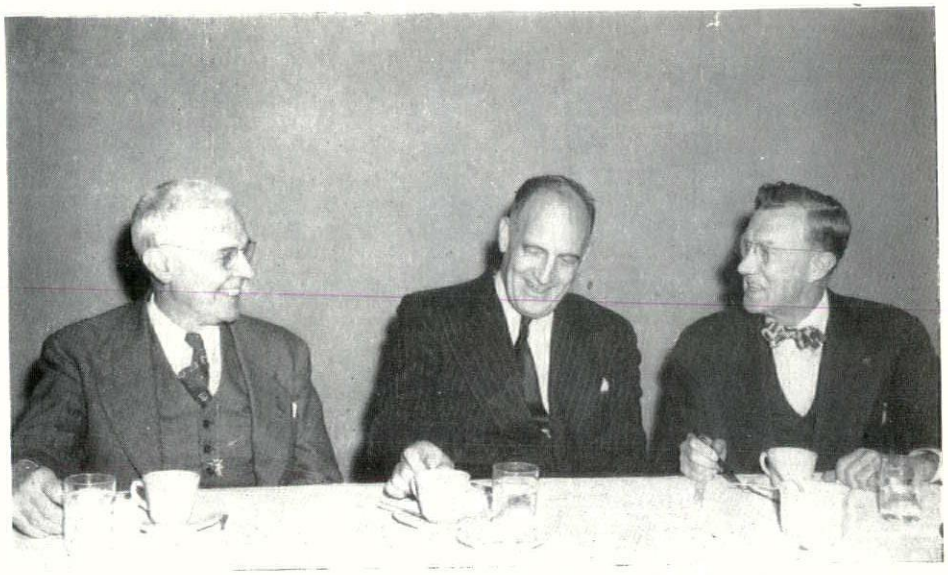

Coburn Photo

Wells I. Bennett, Wallace Harrison and George Thompson at the Nov. 19 meeting.

CLARENCE B. MERRILL

Clarence Bronson Merrill, A.I.A., 57, prominent Saginaw architect, died at his home in that city on October 27, after a heart seizure.

He had been a prominent Michigan practitioner for many years and had been architect for many schools and other important buildings, including the Saginaw City Hall, Post Office and Havenrich Building.

The Saginaw News of Oct. 29 states "A ready good nature was a part of a pleasing personality which won for him scores of friends in all walks of life. Public spirited, he served in an executive capacity for a number of social agencies here."

Born in Saginaw, Oct. 21, 1890, he was educated there, later working for Cowles & Mutscheller, Frank D. Chase of Chicago and Carl Macomber. With Mr. Macomber he became a partner and then began his own practice in 1940. Last March he joined with Frederick E. Wigen, to form the partnership of Merrill & Wigen. Mr. Wigen will continue the practice at the firm's office, 1133 Cornelia Ave., Saginaw.

In 1943 Mr. Merrill was elected a member of The American Institute and assigned to the Detroit Chapter. He became a charter member of the Saginaw Valley Chapter when it was formed in 1945. He had been registered in Michigan as an architect for many years and he held a certificate with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. He was also a member of the Michigan Society of Architects, of long standing.

His other affiliations included a life membership in the Germania, membership in the Elks and Pioneer Club. He was a director of the City Rescue Mission for nearly a quarter of a century and had served as its president. He had also served on the YMCA Camp and House Committee, was a member of Draft Board during World War II.

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JOSEPH A. FUSCO, a member of the Detroit Chapter, AIA, who moved to Miami Beach, Fla., a few years ago, has just opened his own office there. One of his first projects is a fire-proof apartment building on Surprise Lake, Miami Beach. We hope to publish this project when it develops a little further.

When Joe transferred his Institute membership to the Florida South Chapter, he retained his membership in the Detroit Chapter. How can this be done? While his membership of record for the national body is in the Florida South Chapter, he can also be a member of the Detroit Chapter only by paying annual dues to this Chapter. He is the only member of that classification we have in the Detroit Chapter.

Joe's mailing address is P. O. Box 1126, Miami Beach 39, Fla.

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ARCHITECTS' HANDBOOK ON HOME LAUNDRY

Buhl Sons Co., Detroit 31, Mich., as distributors for Bendix Appliances, has available a useful Handbook on Home Laundry layouts.

It is a most complete manual, fully illustrated with plans, elevations and interior views, many of which are in color by the well-known architect, L. Morgan Yost, of Kenilworth Ill.

Covered are such subjects as The Space, The Work Cycle, Basic Equipment, Built-In Conveniences, and Supplementary Equipment, for the utility room, combination kitchen-laundry sewing room, basement laundry, workshop-laundry, garage-laundry, service porch-laundry, etc.

Copies of the book may be secured by requesting them from Buhl Sons Co.

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ELIEL SAARINEN, FAIA and EERO SAARINEN, AIA announce the formation of a new partnership for the practice of architecture under the name of Saarinen, Saarinen and Associates, with offices at West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The telephone number is Birmingham 5037.

AIA CONVENTION WILL BE IN SALT LAKE CITY

The Eightieth Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects will be held in Salt Lake City in late June of 1948. This decision was reached after questionaires had been sent to members asking their preferences as to several locations, including an ocean cruise to Bermuda.

The latter apparently became too involved when tentative arrangements for last convention had to be canceled. Further, the prospects for such a cruise this year were not much better.

Salt Lake City is the home of our Past-President, Raymond Ashton and his charming wife, so we can expect everything to be in ship-shape, though the convention will not be aboard ship.

GEORGE H. MIEHLS, president of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc. talked on "The Building Industry Looks Forward" at the annual meeting of the Western Society of Engineers at Chicago on November 25. The Society membership comprises 500 leading industrial mechanical and building trades engineers of the central western area.

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MSA 34th CONVENTION PLANS FURTHERED AT BOARD MEETING IN KALAMAZOO

ANDREW MORISON NAMED CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

The Michigan Society of Architects Board of Directors monthly meeting in Kalamazoo on November 12 named Andrew R. Morison, of Detroit as Chairman of arrangements for the Society's Thirty-Fourth Annual Convention to be held at the Hotel Statler in Detroit, March 4 and 5, 1948.

The Board approved the resumption of the Building Industry Banquet as concluding event of the Convention This function has drawn as many as one thousand people, under the joint sponsorship of the Michigan Society of Architects, the Producers' Council of Michigan and the Builders' and Traders' Exchange.

The meeting, held at the Park Club, through the courtesy of Director William A. Stone of Kalamazoo, was attended by Messrs. Adrian N. Langius, Arthur J. Zimmermann, Julian R. Cowin, Lyle S. Cole, Andrew R. Morison, William A. Stone, Talmage C. Hughes, Alden B. Dow, Earl W. Pellerin, Paul A. Brysselbout and Paul A. Flanagan.

The Architects' Show Committee, of which Dow is Chairman and on which Earl Pellerin has done considerable work in Detroit, met prior to the Board meeting and brought this project nearer to consummation. The show will be held in Convention Hall, Detroit from February 28 to March 7, 1948. Delegates to the Convention, which will be held during that time, will visit the show in a body on Saturday, March 6, the day after the convention adjourns.

Pellerin reported on the questionnaire recently sent to all M.S.A. members, saying that of 83 returns, 74 were in favor of the program, 65 would lend financial assistance, 41 would exhibit, 43 would give personal assistance in developing the show, 65 favored the chapters and the Society lending funds, and 37 would submit designs for small houses. He urges those who have not done so to return the forms. Even though late, this would still be helpful.

The President reported that the dates of August 6 through 8 had been confirmed by the Grand Hotel as the Society's Mid-Summer Convention on Mackinac Island. The MGM motion picture, "This Time for Keeps" is now being shown in the theatres. It was made about the time of our "Little Convention" there two years ago.

Alden Dow has some wonderful movies in color which he made at the Grand Hotel last year. It is said that next year a real production will be planned in which Alden will be the producer. The cast: M.S.A. members, their families and friends.

President Langius welcomed Andrew Morison as a new Director on the Society Board, representing the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. He reviewed the new director's service to the profession, stating that the Society was most fortunate in having him back on the Board. The President named Morison a member of the Public and Professional Relation Committee to succeed William E. Kapp, whose term as Director had expired. Arthur K. Hyde was named Chairman of this Committee.

As has been the custom, the President will be Chairman of the Convention Committee; Morison, Vice-Chairman, while other members on the Committee are Roger Allen, Alden Dow, Arthur K. Hyde and Talmage C. Hughes.

The Park Club is a delightful place for such a meeting. There was only one unfortunate incident: two of the Detroit Directors didn't recognize Kalamazoo, went on to Dowagiac, came back by taxi.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in Detroit, at the University club, courtesy of Director, Arthur Hyde. The date is December 10, 1947.

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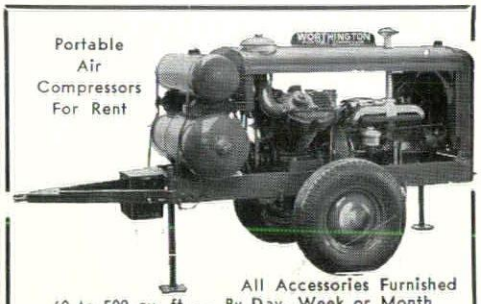
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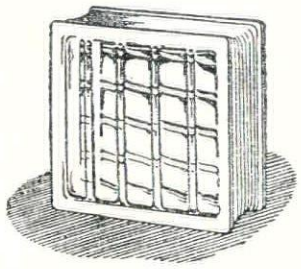
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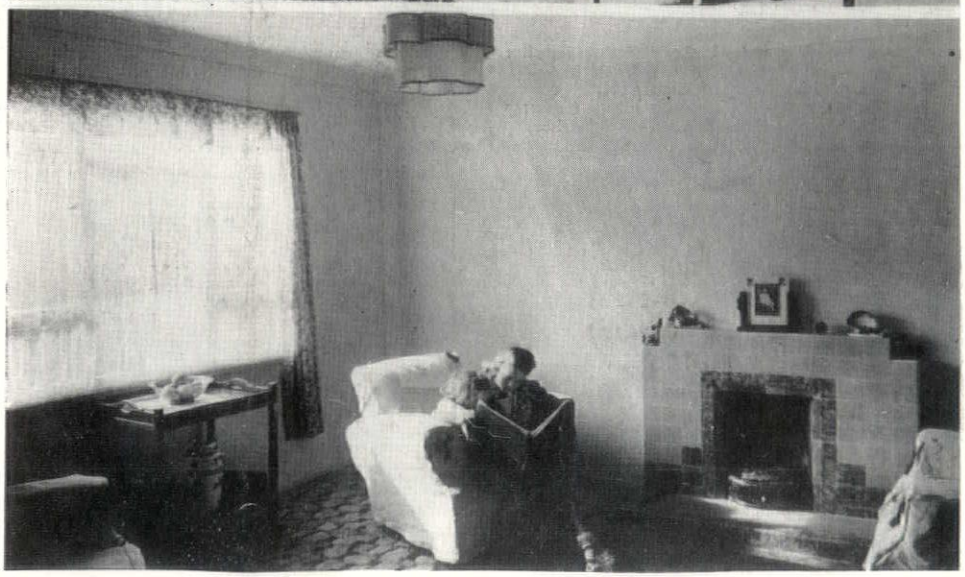
HOUSES BUILT LIKE BOMBERS, WITH PLYWOOD

Following the method used in building the R.A.F.'s famous Mosquito bomber, a wartime motor torpedo boat construction plant is now producing houses to help replace the 4½ million homes destroyed or damaged when the bombs dropped on Britain. Called Scottwoods, the houses are constructed of laminated pine, bonded with a strong waterproof plastic. Heat insulation is obtained by using glass wool between the various skins. First batch of the centrally-heated, semi-detached homes has been erected at Enfield, a London suburb. Total number of houses completed in Britain from the end of the war to August 31, 1947, was 247,935. 10,168 permanent houses and 3,032 temporary houses were built in the month of August, and 1,035 war-destroyed houses were re-built.

Picture shows: TOP: Just settled in one of the new houses, Mrs. Joyce Bennett welcomes home her three children from school. House has 3 bedrooms, living room, dinette, kitchen and bathroom. **BOTTOM:** Two of the three children read a bedtime story in airy living room.



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REFRESHER COURSE

The Refresher Course for persons preparing to take the state examination for professional engineer or architect will be given again next year, beginning on February 7, 1948.

Sponsored by the Affiliate Council and the ESD, the course will follow the pattern established during previous years of reviewing the subjects used by an applicant in writing the examination. The classes will be held on consecutive Saturdays (morning and afternoon sessions) for 17 weeks.

The work for engineers will be divided into Part I, covering engineering fundamentals, and Part II, covering engineering law, ethics, report writing and general business practice. The work for architects is divided into five parts, covering the sections into which the examination is divided.

In order to be eligible to take the entire state examination, an applicant must have had at least four years' experience following graduation, or at least eight years' experience in the absence of a degree. Only Part I of the state examination, covering fundamentals for engineers, or structural design for architects, can be taken by persons not having the required experience indicated above.

Attendance will be limited strictly to members of the ESD and its Affiliate Societies. A tuition fee of $25.00 for those taking the entire course, and $15.00 for those taking only one part of the engineering work, has been set. All members interested in taking the course should apply at the ESD office after December 15th for registration blanks.

It is recommended that officers of the various Affiliate Societies publicize among their members these facts about the course so that everyone interested can complete his registration before the first session. All applicants who are accepted will be called in for registration, collection of fee and assignment to sections shortly before the beginning of the work.

It must be borne in mind that the Refresher Course is merely an opportunity to reinforce and refresh previous educational backgrounds. All applicants must be prepared to devote several hours per week to individual study outside of attendance at class sessions to obtain significant benefit from the course.

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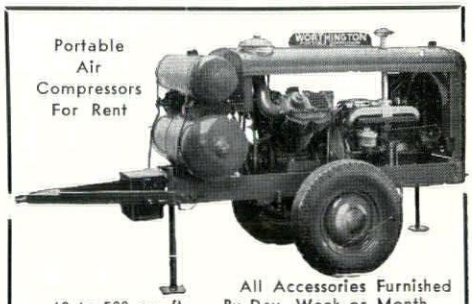
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Many members of the profession have in the past asked "Why don't we, as architects, do something worthwhile about this or that subject?" Your Board of Directors, in an effort to fulfill their obligation to you, have devoted much time discussing and studying many subjects concerning the profession in Michigan.

The Committee on Education and Research, with Alden Dow as Chairman, has laid the foundation for what we believe will be an outstanding architects show. The general program for the show is now well established but it can only be successfully carried out with the assistance of the best talents in the profession.

The Board, therefore, after much consideration, has appointed certain architects to be members of special show committees.

A list of the committee's membership is given herewith.

Yours very truly,
A. N. Langius, President

SPECIAL SHOW COMMITTEES

Chairman of the Show: Earl W. Pellerin
Executive Sec'y: Talmage C. Hughes

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Committee on Business

Lawrence E. Caldwell, Lyle S. Cole, Cornelius Gabler, Paul E. Flanagan, Stanley Fleischaker, Talmage C. Hughes, Joseph W. Leinweber, Andrew R. Morison, Paul R. Sewell, Eberle M. Smith.

Committee on House Competition

Paul A. Brysselbout, Clair W. Ditchy, Alden B. Dow, Joseph F. Dworski, Owen A. Luckenbach, Malcolm R. Stirton, William A. Stone, Harold H. Ehlert, George J. Bery.

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The offices of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc., Architects and Engineers, formerly located at 1507 Stroh Bldg., in Detroit, will be moved on December 21 to 153 East Elizabeth Street. This is the Red Cross Building, formerly known as the Insurance Exchange Building, at the north-east corner of John R. Street.

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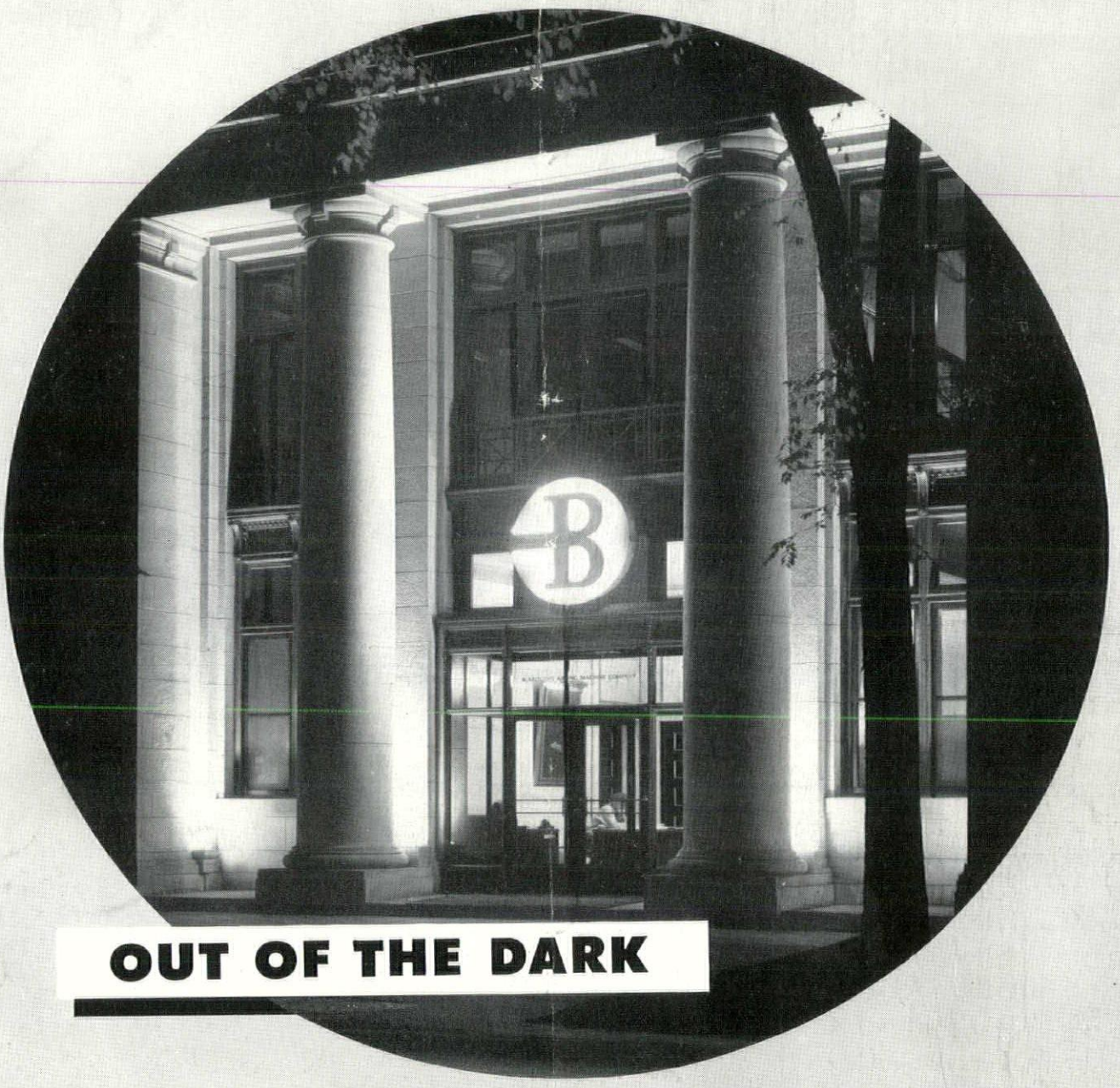

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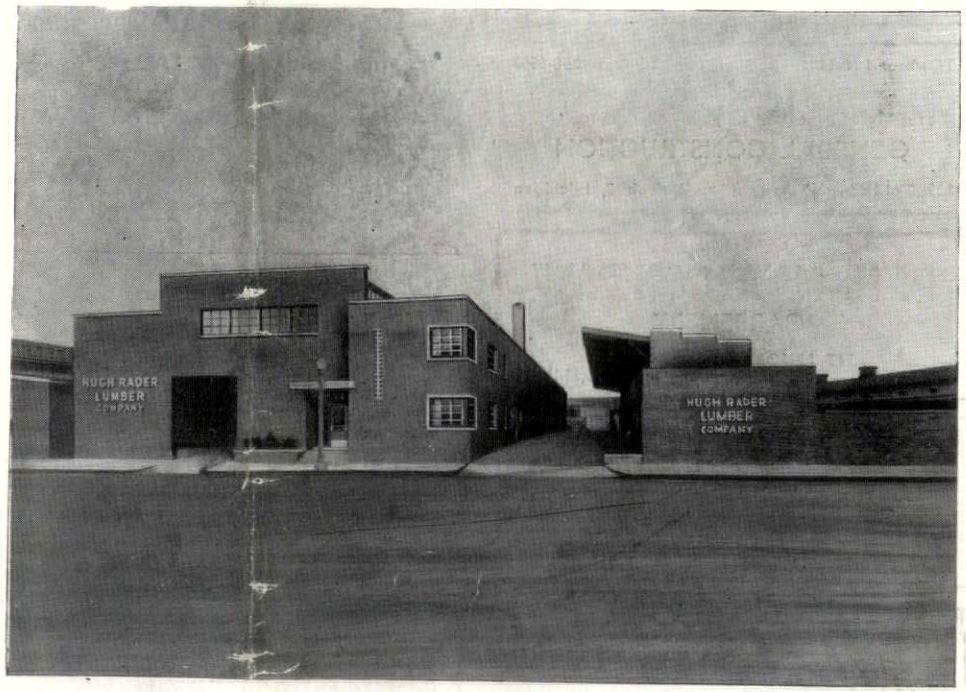
Entered as second-class matter January 15, 1946, at Postoffice at Detroit, Mich., under Act of March 3, 1879. Published weekly. Subscription price: 50c per year. (Non-members, $1.00). 5c per copy.

VOLUME 21 DETROIT, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 16, 1947 No. 50

NEW MODERN PLANT FOR LUMBER COMPANY

Completion of a modern warehouse that provides heated and air conditioned storage space for one and one half million board feet of kiln-dried hardwoods and pattern lumber has been announced by Hugh Rader Lumber Company, 15175 Hamilton Ave., Detroit, Michigan. Jahr & Lyman are architects and engineers. The main building which is 72'x300' has an entire exterior of masonry, the roof being supported by 12" fire resistant timbers. There is a two-track railroad spur with room for twenty-five cars on the property. One of these tracks runs the full length of this building and the other into a part of the yard where provision for another million feet of air-dried lumber consists of a lean-to building with masonry walls and structural steel framework . . .While the office exterior is of face brick and cut-stone trim, its interior finish is a practical display of the finest hard-woods consisting of solid paneling to the ceiling throughout. As one enters this modern plant one finds the reception room and general offices finished in panels of natural red birch. The office of Hugh Rader, Sr. is paneled in American black walnut and the younger Hugh Rader's is in honduras mahogany. Then as one takes the open stairway to the second floor which is a continuation of the general office paneling one finds at the top of the steps a spacious conference and directors' room that is not only paneled in appalachian white oak but also has an inlaid parquet floor of this same most serviceable and beautiful wood. Adjoining rooms include a wardrobe, washroom and shower but the focal point of interest in the main room of this suite is a beautiful color photomural of a woodland scene. It is easy to see from the moment one approaches the Hugh Rader plant that an architect has had a part in the design of its handsome exterior, and one realizes that he has done a good job.



MEETING

Michigan Chapter American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers at the Horace H. Rackham Educational Memorial, Monday, December 15, 1947. Dinner—6:30 P. M., meeting—8:00 P. M.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Speaker: Harold W. Pearson, Chief Smoke Inspector, City of Detroit.

Subject: "New Smoke Ordinance."

Speaker: Hugh P. Dolan, Supervising Engineer, Detroit Board of Education.

Subject: "Operating 250 Smokestacks."

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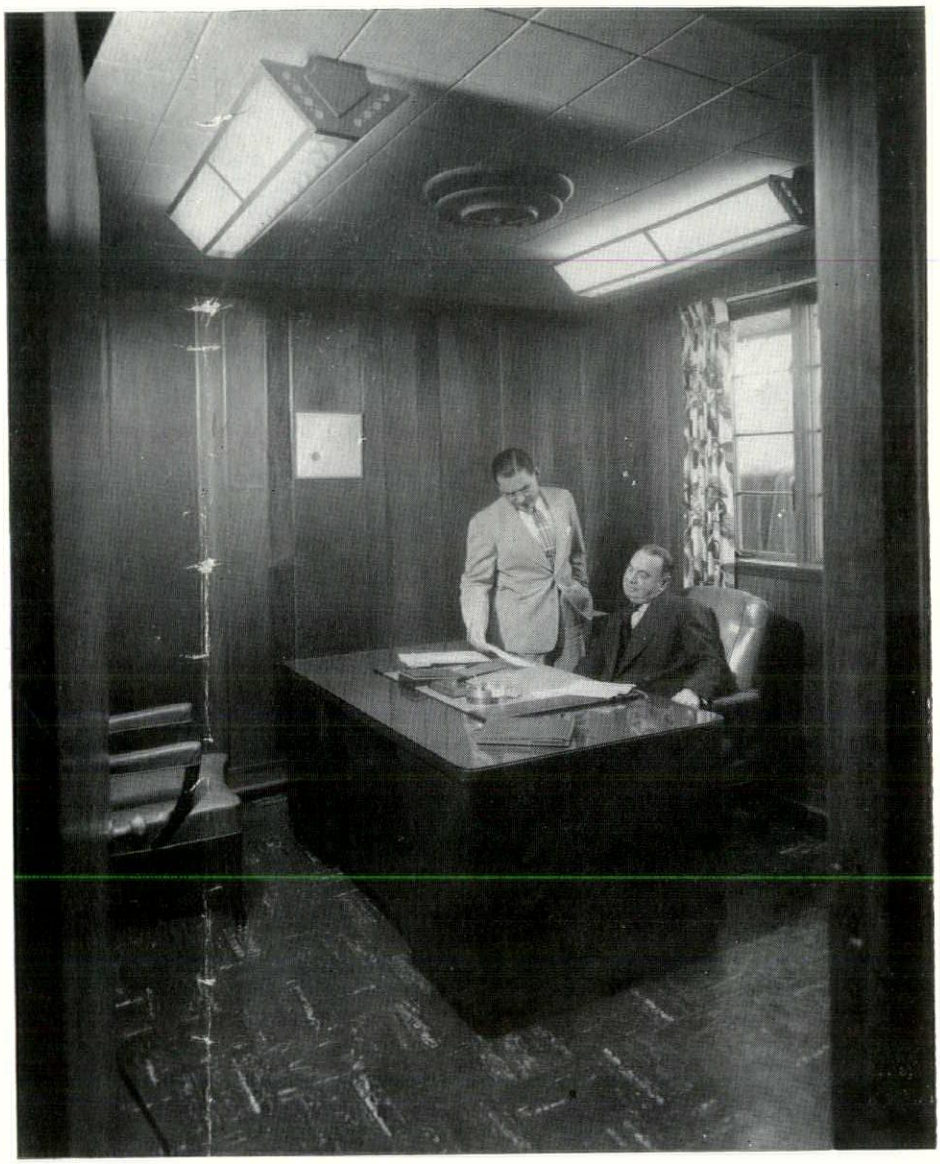
WANTED—In Arizona, architectural draftsman, who desires to locate in Arizona. Permanent position to the right man, good compensation and pleasant working conditions.—Write or wire C. Kenneth Bell, c/o Place & Place, Architects, Tucson, Arizona.

At Right and on facing page are views of the interior of Hugh Rader Lumber Company, in Detroit.

Jahr & Lyman are architects and Engineers.



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Views of office and conference room, Hugh Rader Lumber Company, 15175 Hamilton Ave., Detroit, Mich.
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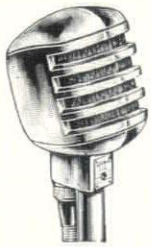
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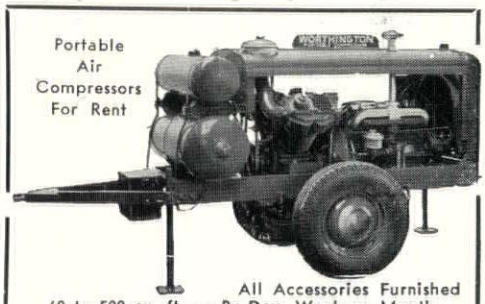
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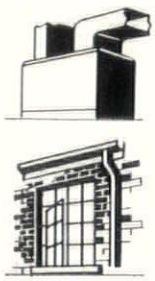
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GEORGE W. FRANCIS, head of the Francis Engineering Company, Saginaw, and vice-chairman of the Saginaw Municipal Planning Commission, was elected a director of the Michigan Society of Municipal Planning Officials at a meeting recently held in Detroit. Mr. Francis acted as chairman of a panel discussion on "Planning Commission Procedures and Programs."

Approximately 100 of the leading planners and planning consultants of Michigan attended the annual meeting of the State society.

Other newly elected directors are Ray C. Eastman of Ann Arbor, and Ralph L. Bauer of Traverse City. New officers are: George F. Emery of Detroit, Jay F. Gibbs of Ferndale, and Mr. Eastman.

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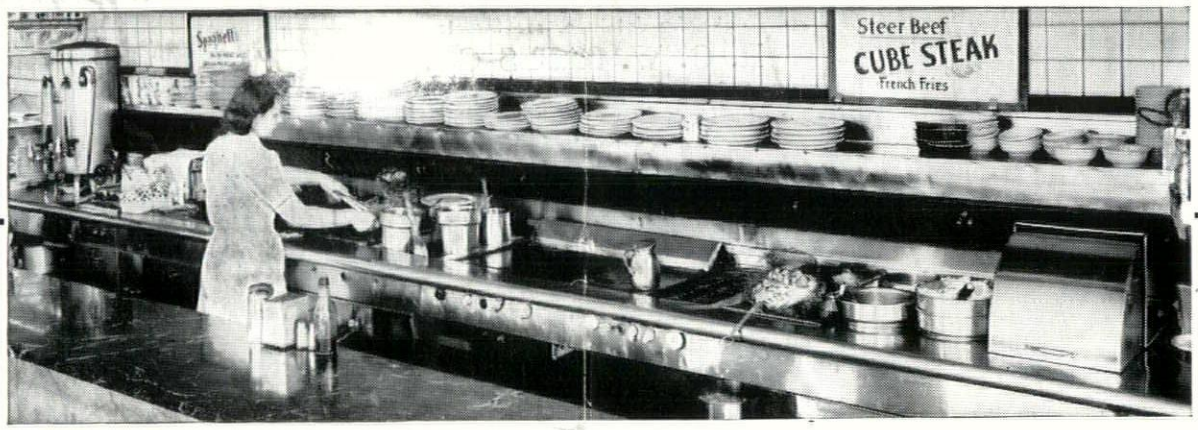

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Volume 21 | DETROIT, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 23, 1947 | No. 51

INDUSTRY BANQUET FEATURES CONVENTION

Michigan Society's 34th Annual Meeting will end with Sixth Annual Building Industry Banquet.

ARCHITECTS' SHOW WILL BE HELD IN 1949.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects, scheduled at the Hotel Statler in Detroit, March 4 and 5, 1948, will have as a special feature the Building Industry Banquet, as concluding event. This decision was made at the Society Board meeting held at the University Club in Detroit on December 10, following a committee meeting of three organizations sponsoring the Banquet. Members of the Committee are Andrew R. Morison and Talmage C. Hughes of the Society, Ed Brunner of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange of Detroit, and Paul Marshall of the Producers' Council of Michigan.

This will be the sixth Building Industry Banquet, which was begun in 1941, and which has drawn as many as 1000 people from all branches of the building industry. Such a meeting justifies an important speaker of national standing, as well as the appearance of other state and local officials.

SHOW POSTPONED

The Board also considered resolutions of the Business Committee and Design Committee for the proposed Architects Show, tentatively scheduled for February 28 to March 7, at Convention Hall in Detroit. These reports are as follows:

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Your business committee has had three meetings in which the prospective publicity men and manager, for the proposed show, were interviewed. After much discussion and consideration this committee, at its last meeting on Thursday, December 4th, expressed themselves as follows:

"It is the consensus of opinion of this committee that sufficient time is not available between now and the proposed date of the show to prepare adequate sales material, to solicit exhibitors and complete the details of the show. There are indications also that the cost of producing the architects show will be in excess of that originally contemplated. Since the cost and revenue for such an undertaking cannot be evaluated until further explorations are made, this committee recommends that the proposed type of show be deferred until some later date and further recommends the Board of the Michigan Society of Architects appropriate a sum of $500 to be used by the show committee for the purpose of employing consultants whose background and experience can provide more complete information on cost, revenues and problems of producing an architects show.

The spirit evidenced by all members of your various committees has indicated to us a genuine interest in producing an architects exhibition. We trust the Society Board will take favorable action toward some future exhibition."

DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Design Committee has reviewed the resolution of the Business Committee and the discussion of the Show Committee meeting of December 4th, and thereby wishes to make the following recommendations.

The Design Committee feels that the comprehensive show planned for Convention Hall, is an idea with tremendtional and social viewpoint, it is felt that this show would be of benefit to the public and the architects of the state of Michigan.

In going over the possible dates for such a show, it is felt that the early spring is the time when the show would most likely be a success, and since this coming spring does not seem possible, the Design Committee recommends that the show be held in February or March of 1949.

The Committee has fully discussed the possibility of the small show at the Statler, as suggested at the Show Committee meeting. However, in view of the limited public attendance possible in such a show, the benefit educationally to the public would also be limted.

See BANQUET—Page 2

In this brief space I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all who have cooperated in behalf of ED BRUNNER and me in bringing to the members of the Builders' & Traders' Exchange that which should create a greater understanding in our industry through readership of the WEEKLY BULLETIN. Your contribution of any interesting item or subject is thoroughly welcomed.

Bill Schumacher

See Page 5

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BANQUET, from page 1

On that basis, the Committee recommends the board consider not holding the small show, and that the total effort of all people so willing to work toward this end, be expended on the one major show.

The Board concurred in these recommendations and, therefore, the show will not be held until the spring of 1949. The suggestion that a smaller show be held at the Statler, with the Convention, was not approved.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in Lansing, on January 14, 1948.

"CLASSROOM PROFILE - - - "

From The Michigan Alumnus, Nov. 15, 1947 (one of a series).

Roger Bailey, Professor of Architecture, joined the faculty in 1932 as Associate Professor, being promoted to a Professorship in 1935. Following his graduation from Cornell University in 1920, he studied for three years at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, in Paris, as winner of the Paris Prize. Upon his return, and until he came to Michigan, he was engaged in the practice of architecture in New York City; in 1930 winning first prize in the Chicago War Memorial Competition in association with Eric Gugler, A. I. A. Professor Bailey was on leave for two years, 1936-38, to serve as Chief Critic at Yale University's School of Architecture, and during the summers of 1937 and 1938 he was Visiting Professor of Architecture at Cornell. He was later on leave for one year, 1945-46, as Senior Designer in the offices of Harley, Ellington and Day, Architects, Detroit. He was a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry during World War I, and participated in the War Housing Program, as consultant to several Detroit firms, during World War II. Professor Bailey organized and directs the work of a non-profit association which provides several Michigan architectural students each year with a means of earning money for their education through practical experience in their chosen profession. He is a member of the Michigan Watercolor Society, the Ann Arbor Art Association, and the Michigan Society of Architects, and is currently on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. His hobby is watercolor painting, in which field he has won several prizes. He is married to Elizabeth Lorch, '32des, a daughter of Emil Lorch, Professor Emeritus of Architecture.

JOHN S. COBURN, Architectural Photographer, has a new telephone number—RAndolph 3945. The address is the same, 2033 Park Ave., Detroit 26. John is official photographer for the Weekly Bulletin.

COMING UP

Detroit Chapter Meetings, January and February

January 14 will be the date of the Chapter's next meeting. Dr. Alfred H. Whittaker, President of the Detroit Historical Society, will be the speaker. His subject: "Detroit's New Historical Museum and Cultural Center." Dr. Whittaker will give a comprehensive statement regarding the whole field of Detroit's historical picture. The Society has done and is doing a splendid work in recording historical data about Detroit, including its architecture. The Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. has invited Dr. Whittaker to bring this message to our members, with a view to a more active participation on the part of the Chapter. The lecture will be illustrated by slides. The dinner and lecture will be at ESD.

On February 11 the Architects Civic Design Group of Metropolitan Detroit will render a report on the activities of that organization. Branson V. Gamber is Chairman and Eliel Saarinen is Coordinator. Dinner will be served at ESD and then members and guests will adjourn to the Lecture Hall at the Detroit Institute of Arts for the program. Currently there will be an exhibition of the Group's work at the Art Institute.

DITCHY IS SECRETARY, A.I.A.

(Complete story will be carried in National Architect for December).

Clair W. Ditchy, F.A.I.A., of Detroit, has been elected Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, by action of The Institute's Board of Directors. He succeeds Alexander C. Robinson, III, of Cleveland, who resigned owing to the pressure of his practice.

Ditchy formerly had been a Member of The Board.

The resignation of Mr. Robinson, who had filled the position for five years, was accepted with regret.

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"HERE'S HOW" BY "BRUNNER"

We feel that a real contribution to that overworked word "cooperation" has been effected. The planning which has resulted in the arrangement for the Exchange to have a column in the Bulletin has been worth all that 9 months of effort. Confident that we can supply news in this column which will be of interest to the architects and to our own members, we welcome the challenge to produce.

What else can we say? Everyone of our members will in time be a subscriber to the Bulletin. So into the offices of all architects and all our members, plus all the other subscribers will come this weekly messenger. One column will be our responsibility to fill to the very best of our ability—and just that we will do.

E. J. Brunner

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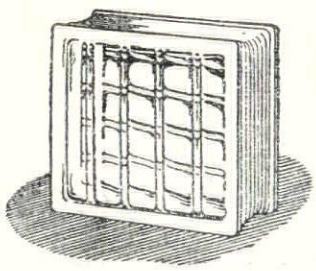

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TO BE DROPPED FROM INSTITUTE

The Executive Committee of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. has been notified that nine Chapter members are indebted to The Institute for dues of 1946 and earlier.

According to Institute by-laws, such members are under suspension for one year and then dropped from membership. For instance, a member in default for a certain year is under suspension the following year and then dropped unless payment is made. Chapter by-laws have similar provisions.

If you have received notice from The Institute concerning such indebtedness, it is hoped that you will clear the amount before December 31, 1947. The Detroit Chapter has made distinct gains in recent years and we do not like to have our members dropped.

Architects, Engineers Exam

The Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Land Surveyors has set its Winter examination for January 15-16-17. It is to be held at the Rackham Building, Detroit, Michigan.

Application blanks are available at 705 Cadillac Square Building (RA. 0217). They may be filed up to January 5, 1948.

GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER

The Grand Rapids Chapter, A.I.A. held its monthly meeting at the Federal Square Grill in that city on December 15.

We haven' had a report on it yet, but since the job was done by Roger Allen, it was probably the biggest success of any meeting to date.

According to advance announcement:

"The program will feature an address entitled 'Art Underground' by Dale V. Ford of the David Walcott Kendall Art School. Mr. Ford was, during World War II, a specialist officer with the Roberts Commission of the State Department on Monuments and Fine Arts. His talk is a resume of his experiences in Germany and Austria locating art treasures looted and hidden by Nazi officials."

Also:

"The reason that architectonics no longer is a big long bulletin full of brilliant, gravity-removing bits of homely philosophy and advice to the bed-ridden is because the officials of this Chapter obstinately refuse to give the Editor any information about approaching meetings until the last possible moment. Of course this leaves so little time to get the bulletin copy down to Clarence Rosa, have it mimeographed, return cards printed, envelopes addressed and mailed, etc., that nobody has any advance notice of more than 48 hours that there is to be a meeting. This is a hell of a way to run a railroad."

—Roger Allen

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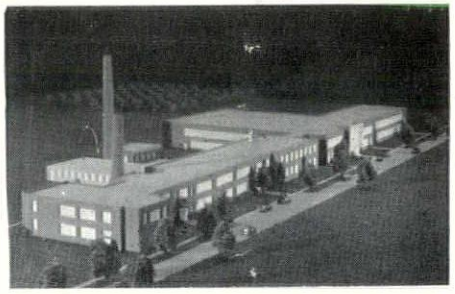

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Robert W. Mitchell, who recently called upon many Detroit architects, states that his organization is prepared to render prompt service to architects, on all types of buildings.

HAROLD R. WRIGHT, associate member of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., is a registered engineer. He offers his services to architects for the design and detailing of structural work. His address is 20233 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods 30, Mich. The telephone number is TUxedo 1-5300.

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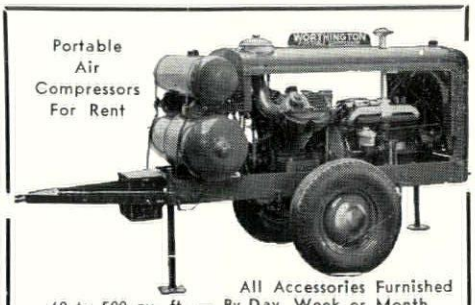
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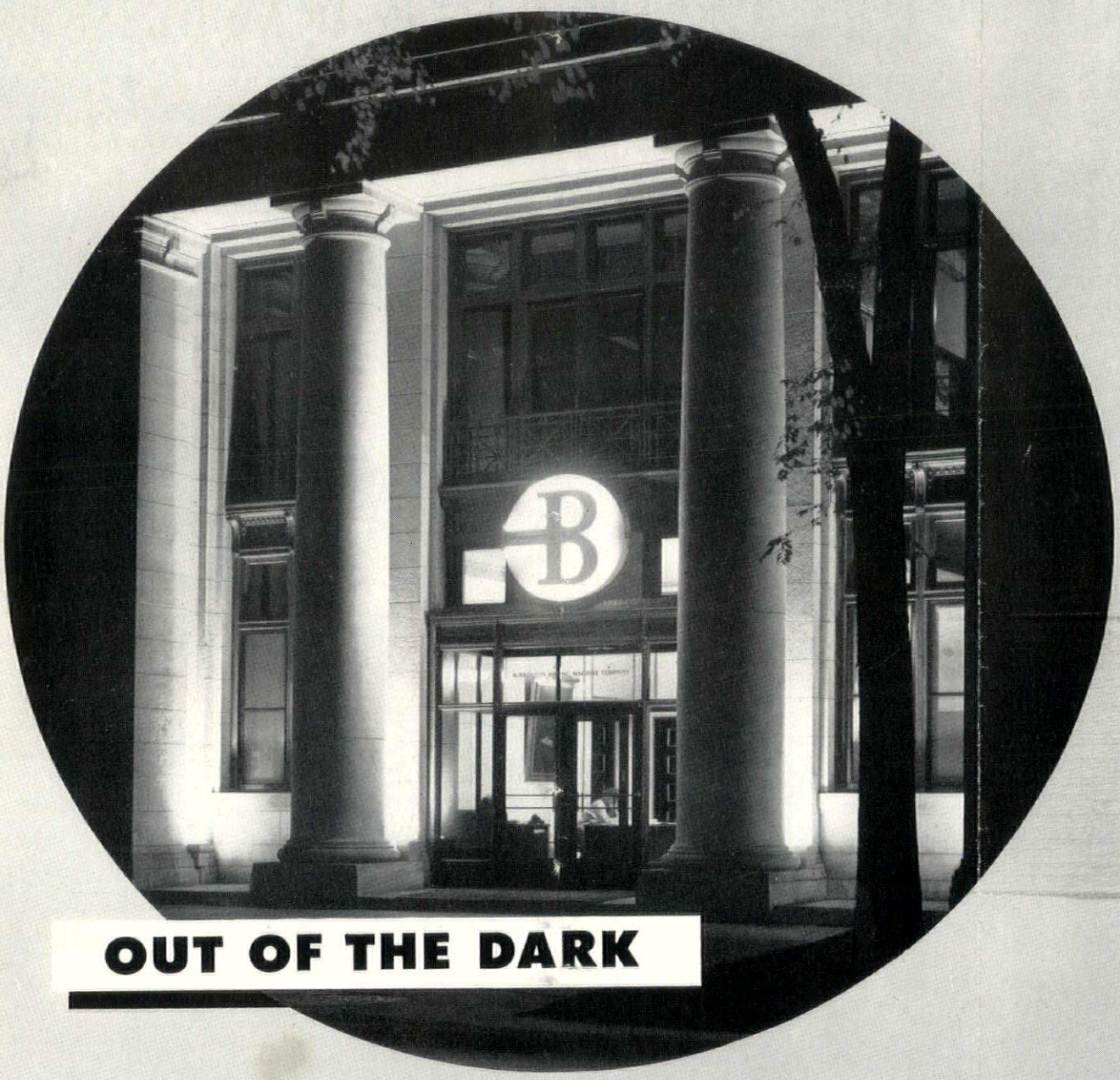

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THE BRITISH ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION'S CENTENARY

by
HOWARD ROBERTSON

EDITOR'S NOTE: This material, furnished by the British Information Service, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, N.Y., originally appeared in the British publication THE LISTENER.

Bedford Square is, I think it will be agreed, one of the loveliest squares in London. It retains today the elegance given to it by its architect, Thomas Leverton, a rival of the Brothers Adam. The Architectural Association, which occupies four houses there, feels that it has the perfect setting for its offices, its club rooms and its school. A hundred years ago its handful of members could scarcely have visualized that out of a casual system of self-help in architectural training would develop the largest school of architecture in the Empire.

The origin of the Association can be traced to the dissatisfaction of pupils who were articled to architects, paid fat fees and learned little or nothing in return. Perhaps, as Mr. John Summerson has suggested in his recently written history of the Architectural Association, the situation that existed in 1847 is best explained by reference to Martin Chuzzlewit. The Pecksniff of Charles Dickens was doubtless an extreme case. All the same many thoughtful young architects in those days were dissatisfied with their lack of proper training. It took a Scot—Mr. James Wylson—to conceive the idea of an association where architectural pupils could study together for their mutual benefit. Wylson and his friends formed their society in 1842. It was called the Association of Architectural Draughtsmen. Its objects were to improve standards of architectural design. The actual phrase was "to endeavor to revive the ancient spirit of architecture.' The Society also had the foresight to create an architects' benevolent fund. Wylson's society flourished for four or five years. But that did not discourage the formation of another group of young architects of spirit headed by Robert Kerr and Charles Gray. It was this group, eventually amalgamating with Wylson's society, which started the Architectural Association upon its first hundred years. Premises were rented at Lyons Inn Hall in the Strand. The Association then entered upon a chequered career, assuming financial obligations which at times almost proved fatal: but never quite.

For twelve years the fortunes of this modest voluntary association fluctuated. At one time it was nearly moribund through lack of membership and finance, but it was whipped into fresh life largely through successful lectures, including one by John Ruskin and another by Cockerell. But during this difficult period it laid the basis for the present system of qualifying tests for architecture. It suggested that the Royal Institute of British Architects should hold examinations and grant diplomas. The year 1859 saw the Architectural Association housed in No. 9 Conduit Street—the charming house occupied for many years by the Royal Institute and now by the Building Center. It was then run on a purely voluntary basis. In fact forty-four years had passed before the Association appointed its first paid official.

Many famous names appear in the records of the A.A. as it began to be affectionately called: Thomas Hardy (who was once an architect), Nesfield, Norman Shaw, Philip Webb and Voysey. All these men contributed to its development. Discussions kept alive that kind of controversy which forms the background of all living art, and battles of the styles waxed and waned. Curiously enough, the Gothic never had a firm hold over the A.A. members. The works of Gilbert Scott, Pugin and Butterfield were examined and presumably found wanting. In general the young architects of the day were lukewarm towards Gothic copyism and Victorian eclectism as well as towards the Five Orders.

From the professional point of view the period from 1890 up till the first world war was fruitful. The examination system, the official registration of architects, the admission of women architects into the School and the R.I.B.A.—these were initiated in those years, and largely through the stimulus of debates for which the Association provided a platform. The war of 1914-18 failed to put the Association out of business. On the contrary it survived and flourished. As the "Architectural Association Incorporated" it came to Bedford Square; the School grew and grew, and so did the membership. Then came this second war, and it has still survived. The Association has succeeded because it filled a need—which still exists—for enthusiasts to discuss and develop their art. The conditions for success are complete autonomy, freedom from political control and bias, and support by the profession and the building industry. The Association's School of Architecture is by far its largest activity. This School today has 500 students; some 20 per cent are women. The numbers are inflated because of the hiatus created by the war. Eventually they may return to a normal figure of 250-300. The training takes five years, and the examinations lead to admission to the Register of Architects, and the Associateship of the Royal Institute.

So much for the bald facts. What really matters is the spirit behind this enterprise, which is unique in that it is entirely run by architects, for architects, and for the good of architecture. On the financial side there is no endowment, which is a pity. And there are no profits either—any surplus goes to improve the School.

Such a body of enthusiasts, directing a flexible scheme of education and commanding the finest available talent for its teaching staff, inevitably exerts an in-

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fluence on architectural trends. The A.A. School was first in the field of contemporary design. It was largely through A.A. exhibitions that modern European developments were made familiar in this country. Both members and students of a body as alert as this are bound to move with the times. Where they are going is another matter. The trends of architectural design, its theory and principles, are still today a subject for ardent debate. In a hundred years there has been no change in that. But the results achieved by a free system of teaching have proved exciting and encouraging. The system produced Miss Elizabeth Scott as winning architect for the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre competition; and recently the brilliant success of two young students, Messrs. Powell and Moira, who won an important competition for post-war housing in Westminster.

The future plans of the Architectural Association will take account of changing conditions. The stronger the pressure towards austerity and towards make-do-and-mend, the greater the need for maintaining standards of quality and for encouraging imagination and flexibility. The greater the need also, in my personal opinion, for a closer contact between architects and builders. The no-man's-land between the two has narrowed but it still exists. Prolonged lack of opportunity to build is the gravest threat to the architect and to the craftsman. A disastrous leveling down in design, quality and building technique would inevitably result. But in spite of present difficulties the Architectural Association looks forward to its next centenary with confidence. Whatever the situation, its members will keep in mind their motto: "Design in Beauty. Build in Truth."

BULLETIN:

Commissions and age advancing all too rapidly, I would like to communicate with a young architect, registered in this State, well qualified, entrepreneur par excellence, traditionally trained (?), of good common sense and well recommended.

He must be willing to share the burdens and profits of a prosperous small office, live in the 52nd city of the USA., learn to like the Northern woods and lakes in good and foul weather, drink coffee black and act friendly to Roger Allen and Louis Kingscott. If such a man is living, he might even become a member of our A.I.A. Chapter.

If I was not afraid to rob Uncle Sam of income tax, I would have this advertisement inserted in solid black print in our weekly Bulletin. This, of course, is only a matter of conscience. On the other hand, some "employed person" accidentally may read this lure and I face the wrath of some 600 other registered Architects calling me unethical or something worse. This wouldn't worry me too much as most of them are ripe for retirement (myself included). This idea is not purely my own. Even if I did not hear it, I felt the unexpressed views of one of

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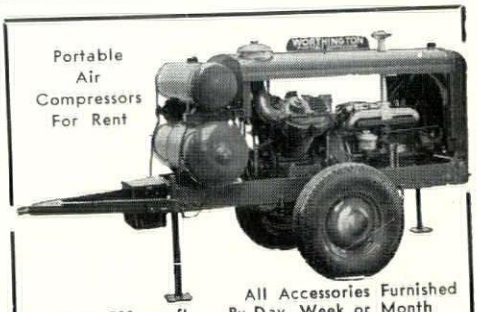
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my Ann Arbor student draftsmen last summer.

Would it be more timely to change the ad to:

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Or would it be more practical to just say:

Capable draftsman wanted. Give full particulars.

Confidentially from one fellow to another FELLOW—at this I have considerable investment in the A.I.A. and hate to lose my membership by doing the wrong thing.

Excuse me for taking so much of your time. Kindly instruct your advertising department to "cut" my story to 5 or 6 lines. The man I want must be registered with not less than 6 years experience.

Hoping you are well and happy as usual—with kindest greetings, I am

Your sincerely,
CHRIS. STEKETEE
Grand Rapids

Two views of the Wallace Harrison Dinner. Top: some of those at the dinner, and Below: at the speakers' table are Dean Wells I. Bennett, President of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., Mr. Harrison and George Thompson, President of Engineering Society of Detroit. —Coburn Photos.

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NELSON CO. DINNER

One of the largest gatherings of architects in these parts for many years turned out at the Wardell-Sheraton in Detroit for the complimentary dinner given by the Nelson Company, of Detroit, wholesalers of plumbing and heating supplies, on the evening of December 8.

Total attendance was 170, 115 were architects.

Mr. Harry O. Nelson, President of the Company, has been on the national board of the plumbing and heating industry as long as our memory serves. His company has long been a staunch supporter of the architectural profession and he is one of the best-liked operators in the industry. Principal address was by Mr. Herbert R. Dusendorf, Purchasing Agent of the Nelson Company.

Noeman J. Ermatinger, of the Nelson Company, conducted the meeting. He called upon Mr. Nelson who gave a splendid statement of conditions in the building industry in general and with regard to plumbing and heating in particular.

Other speakers included Messrs. Dixon of the heating department, and Blass who spoke on the precipitrator. A feature of special interest was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Erickson, in the way of a new product, not yet in production—the Radar Range. This remarkable appliance cooks food in a matter of seconds, as the two clearly demonstrated to the edification of those present. When Mr. Erickson said it was too bad that we had all had dinner, I was tempted to say that, with all of the succulent steaks, etc. he prepared, "I could have another." This was not occasioned by a lack of food at the main event, but by the tempting dishes he passed around. We are told to not expect this equipment in Detroit for at least another year, although the Statler Hotels are now using it in some cities.

Some we were glad to see there:

Emil Lorch, who came in for another meeting, but found that he could attend.

The Nelson Co. Dinner, Dec. 8. Above: the cocktail hour, and below are shown Harry O. Nelson (right) and Norman Ermatinger — in action. —Coburn Photos.

J. Ivan Dise, who has just returned from an extended trip through the West—California, Arizona, Colorado and many other states. He states that he enjoyed visiting with Kenneth Bell, of Tucson, Arizona.

John Stahl, who is in his 44th year of practice.

The main talks at this meeting were most constructive and helpful to architects. They will be published in future issues of the Weekly Bulletin and National Architect.

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